

In the Claims

1. (Previously Amended) A method for the repair or replacement of vocal cord tissues comprising the steps of:

removing a damaged or diseased portion of a vocal cord, and  
replacing the removed portion of the vocal cord with a graft construct comprising vertebrate submucosa or basement membrane.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises submucosa and the submucosa is selected from the group consisting of intestinal submucosa, urinary bladder submucosa, and stomach submucosa.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the submucosa is intestinal submucosa.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises vertebrate basement membrane.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises 2-12 layers of submucosa.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises 4-6 layers of submucosa.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the graft construct is formed as a multilayered homolaminate construct.

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the graft construct comprises a single layer of submucosa.

9. (Previously Amended) A method for the repair or replacement of damaged or diseased head or neck soft tissues comprising the steps of:

removing the damaged or diseased portion of the head or neck soft tissues, and

replacing the removed portion of tissue with a graft construct comprising vertebrate submucosa or intact basement membrane,

wherein the head or neck soft tissues are selected from the group consisting of vocal cord, larynx, palate, nasal, and auricular tissues.

10. Canceled

11. Canceled

12. (Previously Amended) A method for the repair or replacement of damaged or diseased head or neck soft tissues comprising the steps of:

removing a damaged or diseased portion of the head or neck soft tissues; and

replacing the removed portion of tissue with a graft construct comprising vertebrate submucosa or intact basement membrane,

wherein the head or neck soft tissues include a native structure having an epithelial cell layer, connective tissue, and functional muscle.

13. (Previously Added) A method for the repair or replacement of damaged or diseased head or neck soft tissues comprising the steps of:

removing the damaged or diseased portion of the head or neck soft tissues, and

replacing the removed portion of tissue with a graft construct comprising vertebrate submucosa or basement membrane,

wherein the head or neck soft tissues are selected from the group consisting of vocal cord, larynx, and palate tissues.

14. (Previously Added) A method for the repair or replacement of damaged or diseased head or neck soft tissues comprising the steps of:

removing the damaged or diseased portion of the head or neck soft tissues, and

replacing the removed portion of tissue with an acellular graft construct comprising vertebrate submucosa or basement membrane,

wherein the head or neck soft tissues are selected from the group consisting of vocal cord, larynx, palate, attached gingiva, nasal, and auricular tissues.

15. (Previously Added) A method for the repair or replacement of damaged or diseased head or neck soft tissues comprising the steps of:

removing the damaged or diseased portion of the head or neck soft tissues, and

replacing the removed portion of tissue with a graft construct comprising an isolated sheet of extracellular matrix tissue,

wherein the head or neck soft tissues are selected from the group consisting of vocal cord, larynx, palate, attached gingiva, nasal, and auricular tissues.

16. (Previously Added) The method of claim 15 wherein the extracellular matrix tissue comprises vertebrate submucosa or basement membrane.

17. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the extracellular matrix tissue comprises vertebrate submucosa.

18. (Previously Added) The method of claim 16 wherein the extracellular matrix tissue comprises basement membrane.